

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes  
Commissioner William Sands  
Commissioner Paula Perry  
Commissioner Chuck Olive*

## BUSINESS SESSION

### I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse

*Chairman McNeill called the November 16, 2020 meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Commissioner Paula Perry, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands and Vice Chairman Larry Rhodes

### II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

*Vice Chairman Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Perry offered the opening prayer.*

### III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-38](#) November 2, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 November 2, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

*Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the November 2, 2020 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[MIN 20-37](#) November 2, 2020 Executive Session Minutes

*Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the November 2, 2020 Executive Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

### IV. Adoption of Agenda

*No changes were made to the agenda. Commissioner Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

### V. Public Comment

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public. No comment was offered.*

### VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)  
[20-170](#)

9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Updates](#)

*Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the monthly department update for September 2020. She reviewed departmental statistics, highlighting an increase in child and adult services. Director Downer also noted that November is National Adoption Month and reported that there are currently 25 licensed foster homes in Ashe and 13 adoptions in the last fiscal year.*

[PRES](#)  
[20-171](#)

9:15 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Ashe County

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - MOU](#)  
[11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - National Adoption Month](#)  
[11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - Performance Measures #1](#)  
[11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - Performance Measures #2](#)  
[11-16-20 DSS Director Tracie Downer - Legislative Report Summary](#)

*Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22 between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Ashe County. The agreement is written to comply with the requirements of law, North Carolina General Statute 108A-74. The MOU includes performance measurements to assess the extent to which child welfare programs function effectively. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[PRES](#)  
[20-172](#)

9:20 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report](#)

*Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for October 2020. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[PRES](#)  
[20-173](#)

9:25 AM - Finance Director Sandy Long - Budget Amendments

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 Finance Director Sandy Long - Budget Amendments](#)

Chairman McNeill presented a request for approval of several budget amendments: increased appropriation of \$400,000 for the department of Economic Development; increased appropriation of \$5,062,500 for the department of Debt Service; increased appropriation of \$239,867 for Capital Projects Fund – County; and increased appropriation of \$13,150,000 for Capital Projects Fund – Schools. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the budget amendments request. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

**GENERAL FUND**

To increase the appropriation for the department of Economic Development from \$974,161 to \$1,374,161; this increased appropriation of \$400,000 to be made with an appropriation of \$400,000 of Revolving Loan Funds from Skyline/Skybest Corporation. To increase the appropriation for the department of Debt Service from \$872,218 to \$5,934,718; this appropriation to be made with a transfer of funds of 5,062,500 from the Capital Projects Fund – Schools fund.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND - COUNTY**

To increase the appropriation for Capital Projects Fund – County from \$7,716,904 to \$7,956,771; this increased appropriation of \$239,867 to be made from acquired loan proceeds.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND - SCHOOLS**

To increase the appropriation for Capital Projects Fund – Schools from \$2,866,701 to \$16,016,701; this appropriation to be made with \$13,150,000 from loan proceeds for the Wilkes Community College/Ashe County Detention Center Financing/Refinancing.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

**PRES**  
**20-174**

9:30 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Annual Approval of Emergency Operations Plan

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 Emergency Mgmt Coordinator Patty Gambill - Appv of EOP](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented the Emergency Operations Plan for annual approval, as required by federal and state regulations. Proposed updates to the plan include changes to the emergency notification contact list and multi-hazard shelter facilities list. Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

**PRES**  
**20-175**

9:35 AM - Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Anderson - Approval of Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 P & R Director Kevin Anderson - Approval of P & R Master Plan](#)

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Anderson presented a contract for the creation of a

*new Parks and Recreation Master Plan for approval. Director Anderson highlighted changes that have taken place within the County and the Parks and Recreation department since the creation of the last Master Plan in 2006, including plans for a new facility at the Ashe County Middle School that would need a strategic plan. A new Master Plan is also needed to apply for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grants. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[PRES](#)  
[20-176](#)

9:45 AM - New River Conservancy Director George Santucci - Approval of Highway 163 Access Property Transfer

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 NRC Director George Santucci - Appv Hwy 163 Access](#)

*New River Conservancy Director George Santucci provided an update regarding the acquisition of land on Highway 163 for a river access complex. He said the New River Conservancy has acquired two parcels of land totaling over 1.4 acres to make up the river access complex. Director Santucci made a request that the County will accept, when appropriate, the transfer of the two parcels from New River Conservancy to the County for the purpose of creating a public river access. Director Santucci pledged that the New River Conservancy would assist the County in applying for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grants applicable to the project. William Sands made a motion to accept the request. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[PRES](#)  
[20-177](#)

9:55 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - CARES Relief Fund (CRF) Update

*County Manager Adam Stumb updated the Board on the usage of federal funds received through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act). He reviewed the disbursement of \$632,856.85 to organizations in the County.*

[PRES](#)  
[20-178](#)

10:00 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Highway 163 Convenience Center Cabin Update

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 County Manager Adam Stumb - Hwy 163 Conv Ctr Update](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb provided an update on the open bid process for the cabin on property the County has purchased for a convenience center site.*

## GENERAL SESSION

### Appointments

[APP 20-17](#)

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Appointments

**Attachments:** [11-16-20 Local Emergency Planning Committee Appointments](#)

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to appoint Jennifer Schroder, Danny Houck, and Dr. Eisa Cox to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Appointment(s) Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

**VII. Commissioner Comments**

*Chairman McNeill recognized Ann Clark, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and Assistant to the County Manager, for her 21 years of service and dedication prior to her retirement in November 2020. Commissioner Sands noted her knowledge of government. Vice Chairman Rhodes expressed his gratitude for her help in answering questions. The Board presented Ann Clark with a plaque in recognition of her service.*

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Executive Session**

**X. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.

---

**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

---

**Ashley G. Honeycutt**  
**Clerk to the Board**